

CLAIMS:

1. A method of distributing various quality versions of an electronic content, said method comprising:
 - defining each quality version of the electronic content;
 - 5 defining at least one distortion algorithm executable to generate a lower quality version of the electronic content by a distortion of the highest quality version of the electronic content; and
 - assigning at least one content key to at least one quality version of the electronic content.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - storing the highest quality version of the electronic content on an electronic content medium.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - storing at least one distortion algorithm on the electronic content medium.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - storing the at least one distortion algorithm on an electronic content player.
- 20 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - storing the at least content key on the electronic content medium.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 25 storing the at least content key on an electronic content player.
7. An electronic content medium, comprising:
 - a highest quality version of an electronic content; and
 - 30 at least one distortion algorithm executable to generate a lower quality version of the electronic content by a distortion of said highest quality version of the electronic content.

8. The electronic content medium, further comprising:
at least one content key assigned to one of the quality versions of the
electronic content.

5 9. An electronic content player, comprising:
a decryption unit operable to decrypt and decode a highest quality version
of an electronic content; and
a distortion unit operable to generate a lower quality version of the
electronic content by a distortion of the decrypted and decoded highest quality version of
10 the electronic content.

10. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key associated
15 with the electronic content.

11. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key assigned
20 to one of a lower quality version of the electronic content.

12. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the
highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key associated
25 with the electronic content subsequent to a reception of a secret key assigned to the
electronic content player.

13. The electronic content player of claim 9, further comprising:
a controller operable to direct said decryption unit to decrypt and decode the highest quality version of an electronic content in accordance with a content key assigned to one of a lower quality version of the electronic content subsequent to a reception of a secret key assigned to the electronic content player.